

AB 2625 – CALIFORNIA HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Assemblymember Fran Pavley

IN BRIEF

The California Heritage Corridor Act would create a process to identify “routes” of historical and cultural significance within California. These destinations would be identified by signs that would provide information to tourists of significant locations throughout the state.

THE ISSUE

Many other states have recognized the cultural and historical significance through the use of Heritage Corridors. California could receive a much needed economic boost in its tourism industry by incorporating its own Heritage Corridor.

Heritage Corridors consolidate historic and cultural locations by their common thread, thereby motivating travelers to visit what fascinates them about California’s past and its people. This approach is fundamentally different than the designation of individual sites as historically significant, in that it weaves places together by their common interests, expands identification to culturally significant locations and thereby encourages discovery of people, places and creations.

Heritage Corridors will not be limited to historic places, events, trails or roads, as California’s heritage includes its cultures, industries, resources, arts, products, literature, philosophies, and achievements, among other concepts.

PROCESS

AB 2625 creates the California Heritage Committee comprised of seven members, including a representative from the State Historic Preservation Office, Caltrans, the California Arts Council, California Tourism, a state university (i.e., UC or CSU), a representative from a private, non-profit heritage organization (i.e., National Trust on Historic Preservation or California Preservation Foundation) and a representative from a private, non-profit cultural organization (i.e., California Assembly of Local Arts Agencies).

Heritage Corridors would be identified with attractive signs bearing a distinctive symbol or design. On the sign, the words “Heritage Corridor” would appear and below that, an additional placard would identify the specific Heritage Corridor and nearest point of historical or cultural significance. The number of a nearby historical marker could be included, to allow travelers to

dial 511, hear a marker and potentially help contribute to the preservation of heritage sites.

Travelers would find Heritage Corridors and travel itineraries through a newly created web page that would feature descriptions of each corridor and interactive maps that would link to destinations, supporting organizations and historic/cultural sites/venues.

DETAILS

This act is non-regulatory in that nothing within it would restrict property or development rights. The funding for a state employee to oversee the program, the establishment of a Web site, initial design of signs, travel and other administrative costs would be allocated to Caltrans. The costs of Heritage Corridor signs, including but not limited to administration, provision of right of way, sign manufacturing, installation and maintenance would be provided by applicants.

The State allocation to establish the Heritage Corridor program is envisioned as seeding the program, to eventually no longer be needed. As a goal of the program is for it to become self-sustaining from fees paid by communities, individuals, industries, organizations and businesses that choose to have their location identified on a heritage route and from other sources of revenue related to the heritage corridor program (i.e., Web site, 511 calls, licensed products, sponsorships, partnerships, etc.). Revenues from these sources will potentially sustain the program and provide a resource for the continued preservation of cultural and heritage programs and sites.

Communities, organizations or individuals wishing to identify their location as part of a heritage corridor would apply to the California Heritage Committee, submitting a fee (set by the Committee) that would be deposited in the newly established California Heritage Corridor Fund. This account within the State Treasury would be used to reimburse the organization for its administrative expenses and for other purposes permitted within the fund, as determined by the Committee and allowed by statute.

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Bowers Museum
The Rich Pelletreau Wildlife Gallery and Studio

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.caculturalheritage.org/> - WEBSITE

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